

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 00217 111720Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 MMS-01 /081 W

----- 001214

O R 111653Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1723

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF EX-FONMIN CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA

SUMMARY. IN MAJOR CONCESSION TO WORLD OPINION,  
GOC HAS RELEASED TO ROMANIA ONE OF MAJOR  
FIGURES FROM ALLENDE PERIOD STILL DETAINED IN  
CHILE. RELEASE WAS WELL TIMED TO IMPACT ON  
CHILEAN RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., UN AND FRG.  
END SUMMARY.

1. IN NATIONWIDE RADIO/TV BROADCAST EVENING  
JAN. 10, INTERIOR MIN. GENERAL BENAVIDES  
ANNOUNCED THAT GOC WOULD EXPEL TO ROMANIA  
JAN. 11 FORMER FOREIGN AND THEN DEFENSE  
MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA MEDINA. INCLUDED WITH  
HIM WOULD BE FORMER JUSTICE MIN. IN ALLENDE GOVERN-  
MENT JORGE TAPIA VALDES, AND ALLENDE PERSONALITIES  
OF LESSER IMPORTANCE LUIS ENRIQUE MUNOZ SCHULTZ,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 00217 111720Z

MAXIMO TACCHI MORAGA, AND LEOPOLDO ZULJEVIC LOBRIN.

2. BENAVIDES SAID CONDUCT OF ALMEYDA AND TAPIA AS MINISTERS HAD RESULTED IN "VERY SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES" AGAINST NATIONAL INTEGRITY AND SOCIAL PEACE. SUCH ACTS, HOWEVER, AS ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ARMS INTENDED FOR CIVIL WAR, AND USE OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO IMPOSE CONTROL OF CONSCIENCE, ARE NOT COVERED IN CHILEAN LEGAL SYSTEM BY PUNISHMENTS ADEQUATE FOR CRIMES. THEY WERE IN ADDITION RESPONSIBLE FOR "OTHER MINOR CRIMES."

3. DECISION TO RELEASE THESE SENIOR DETAINEES WAS "CATEGORIC PROOF" TO WORLD OF GOC'S "GENEROSITY AND GOOD WILL" ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. RELEASE CONFIRMED GOC'S WILLINGNESS NOT TO PROLONG "UNNECESSARILY" DETENTION OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN SENTENCED, AND ITS "EQUALLY IMMOVABLE" DETERMINATION TO GUARANTEE SECURITY OF CHILEANS, BY EXPELLING PERSONS DANGEROUS TO THE STATE.

4. COMMENT: DECISION TO RELEASE ALMEYDA WAS NOT EASY ONE TO MAKE. MANY GOC SUPPORTERS HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT HIM AND OTHER ALLENDE HIERARCHS, AND WOULD MUCH RATHER SEE THEM PUNISHED THAN EXILED. GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDING AGAINST ALMEYDA, AND RELEASE FROM DETENTION BEFORE PROCESS IS ENDED MAKES IT INCONSISTENT FOR GOC TO CLAIM IT HAS TO HOLD OTHERS UNTIL JUDICIAL PROCESS CONCLUDED. RELEASE IS ALSO EMBARRASSING ADMISSION THAT GOC AFTER SO MANY MONTHS HAS FOUND NOTHING OF REAL SUBSTANCE TO CHARGE HIM WITH. MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, GOC BELIEVES ALMEYDA IS THE ONE SURVIVOR OF THE ALLENDE PERIOD WHO COULD BEST HEAD A CHILEAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. HIS RELEASE WAS THUS AN EXTRAORDINARY CONCESSION BY GOC TO WORLD OPINION.

5. IN ADDITION TO GOC RECOGNITION OF NEED TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE GENERALLY, WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING WERE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN DECISION ON RELEASE AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 00217 111720Z

ITS TIMING: A) GOC'S EXPECTATION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL VISIT CHILE IN FEBRUARY, AND RELATED GOC DESIRE MAKE HELPFUL GESTURE WHILE AVOIDING IMPRESSION IT MAKES CONCESSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER OUTSIDE PRESSURE: B) FEBRUARY MEETING OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF UNGA RESOLUTION LAST FALL REQUESTING RELEASE OF ALMEYDA); AND C) CONNECTION BETWEEN

ALMEYDA RELEASE AND GERMAN AID FOR CHILE  
(SANTIAGO 0047 AND BONN 18907).  
THOMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SANTIA00217  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750012-0093  
**From:** SANTIAGO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750159/aaaabzzx.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RELEASE OF EX-FONMIN CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA SUMMARY. IN MAJOR CONCESSION TO WORLD OPINION  
**TAGS:** SHUM, CI, RO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006